

The Sufficiency of Grace

By REV. HOWARD W. POPE
Moody Bible Institute,
Chicago

TEXT—Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree.—Isa. 65:23.

In this verse we have a striking lesson on the substitutions of grace. It would be a good deal to dig up the thorn, and cut down the briers, but God does far more. He substitutes for the thornbush the tall and beautiful fir tree, and for the hateful briers the graceful myrtle.



Occasionally a student comes to our office after a stay of a few days, and informs us that he is about to leave the school. When we inquire for the reason, he answers that he does not like the teaching. When pressed for an explanation, he says, "Well, you do not teach the doctrine of eradication."

"And what do you mean by that?" "I mean that God removes the roots of sin from our nature, so that one will not sin, and your school does not teach that doctrine, does it?" "No, but we teach something far better."

"What do you mean? I did not know that there was anything better than the eradication of sin."

"Oh yes, the substitution of grace is far superior. Instead of digging out the roots of sin, God plants in our nature the germs of grace, which over-run, and in time run out the seeds of evil. 'Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle.'"

Luther Burbank takes the prairie cactus, whose sharp thorns are the terror of man and beast, and converts it into a nourishing food, on which the cattle fatten and flourish. What was once a thing to be dreaded is now a means of support.

The apple tree which once bore nothing but sour and bitter fruit, small in size, and rough in appearance, by the simple process of grafting can be made to produce apples which are large, sweet and luscious. It is the same old tree, but a new principle has been introduced, and that new nature dominates and determines the whole output of the tree. I once saw a lemon tree in California which had been grafted until it was bearing 22 different kinds of luscious fruit.

What Burbank and others are doing in the realm of nature, God is continually doing in the realm of grace. He does not destroy the tree which bears bitter fruit, but he grafts into it the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and soon that tree is rich and beautiful with all the fruits of the Spirit.

"Thou art Simon," said Jesus, the first time he met him, and Simon in his circle of friends was a synonym for fickleness, and instability. But knowing what grace could do for that big-hearted fisherman, Jesus added, "Thou shalt be called Cephas," which means "a rock," and is a symbol of firmness. Peter finally reached the point where he could truthfully say that he was kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

James and John, were so hot tempered and violent that they were nicknamed "Boanerges"—sons of thunder, but grace led one of them to die as a martyr, and the other to be called the apostle of love. What God has done for others, he will do for us. If there are thorns of selfishness and briers of envy or malice in our character, we must not be satisfied with their extermination, but ask God to give us the very opposite of these, the love which suffereth long and is kind, which envieth not and is not puffed up.

Where the thorns of criticism and faultfinding grew, there let us claim a tall and stately growth of generous praise, and hearty appreciation. Let us never be satisfied with overcoming the petty faults and follies of our character, but ask God also to adorn our lives with all the graces and virtues that are in Christ Jesus, instead of the briers, the beautiful myrtle, the graceful smilax, and the sweet-scented arbutus.

It may be that there are some thorns in our own environment, as well as in our character; some things which are hard to bear, and painful to endure. God can change these thorns into roses, these painful conditions into a source of gratitude and praise. Paul had a thorn in his flesh, and so perhaps have you—a disagreeable employer, or an uncongenial roommate. Paul found God's grace sufficient to change that painful thorn into his greatest blessing, and so may you and I.

Christ by his resurrection has even robbed death of its sting and converted it into a gateway to heaven. Yes, grace is sufficient for all things.

Grace, fathomless as the sea,
Grace flowing from Calvary,
Grace enough for eternity—
Grace enough for me.

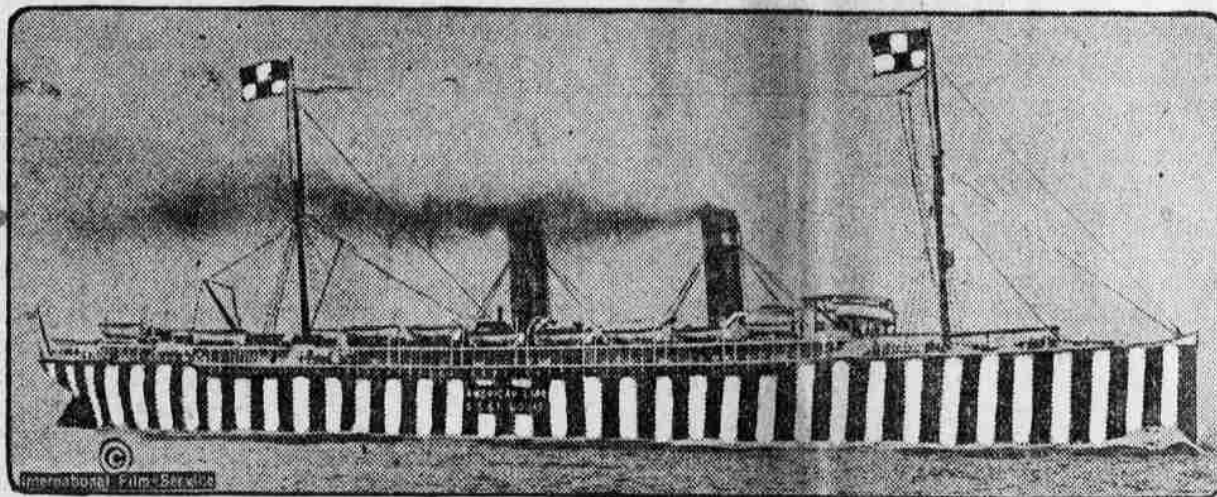
It is not enough to do good, one must do it in the right way.—Lord Morley.

AUSTRIA'S NEW EMPEROR TAKING THE OATH



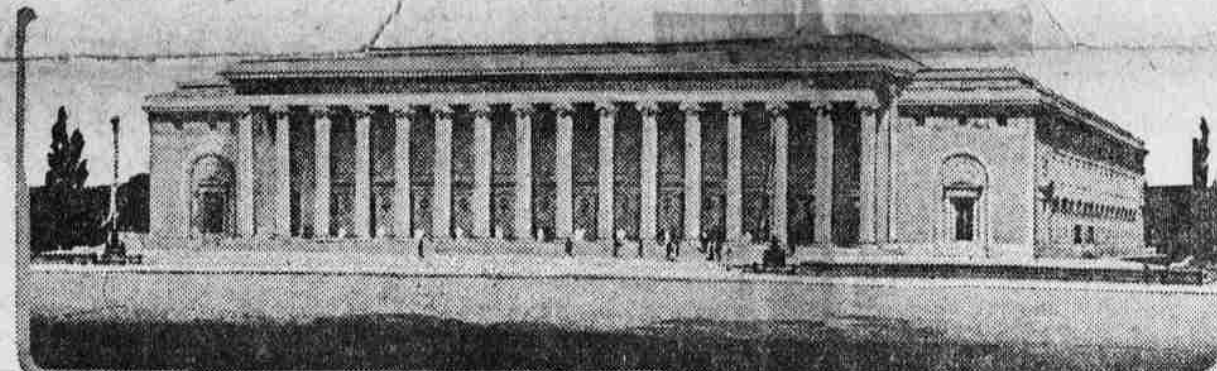
Emperor Karl Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary taking the oath of his coronation at Budapest, Hungary. The coronation was the most brilliant of any great public ceremony that has taken place in Hungary for generations. When the emperor took the oath he was surrounded by the highest church dignitaries and gayly costumed court officials.

ACCORDING TO THE ORDERS OF THE KAISER



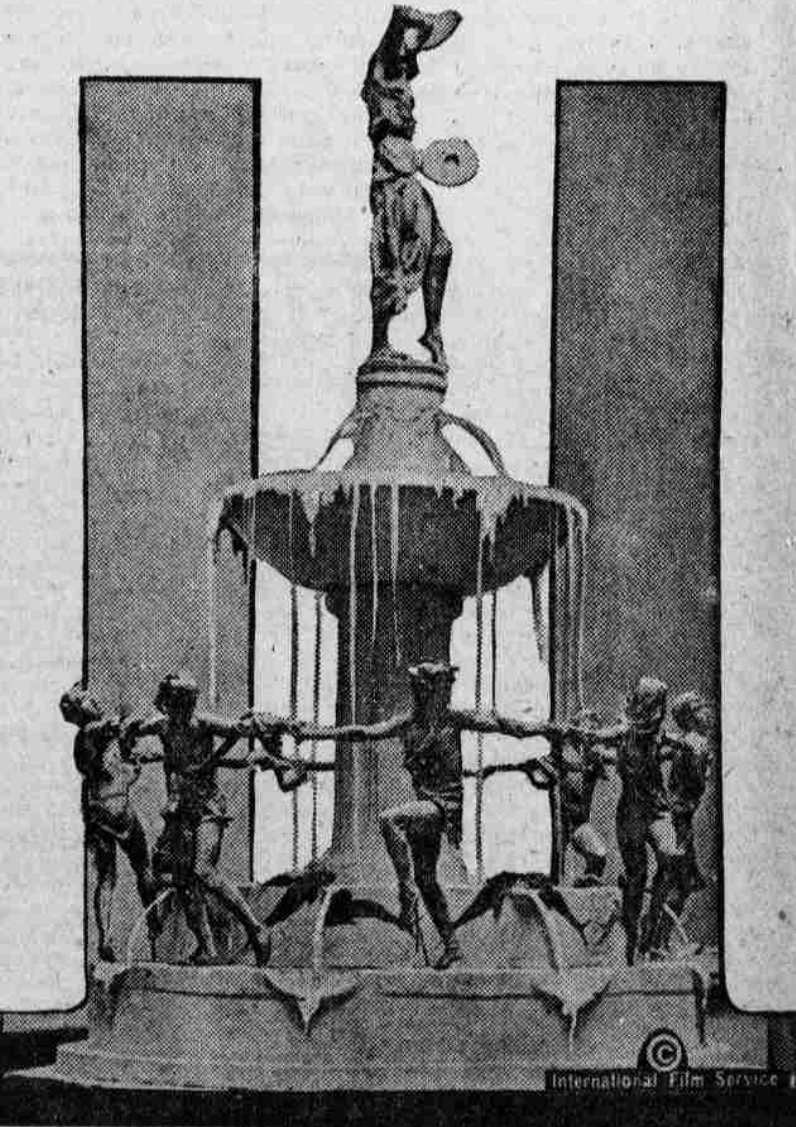
This is the American liner St. Louis as she would appear if painted in accordance with the command of the emperor of Germany. This was that American ships should be painted in white and red vertical stripes about ten feet wide and should carry large flags of red and white checks, with the American flag at the stern.

PROPOSED WASHINGTON MEMORIAL BUILDING



The George Washington Memorial association, which has already raised \$300,000 toward the erection of a memorial to George Washington in the capital, is attempting to raise this amount by February 22, Washington's birthday, so the work can be begun at once. The site, once occupied by the railroad station in which President Garfield was assassinated, has already been donated by congress. The building will be 300 feet wide, 275 feet deep and four stories in height.

UNIQUE FOUNTAIN FOR INDIANAPOLIS



A fountain like no other fountain or other piece of sculpture anywhere—a fountain that will stand as a type of original American art—has been designed by A. Stirling Calder, New York, and will be erected next October in the center of University square, Indianapolis. It is a gift to his city by the late Richard Dewey. The subject of the unique work of art is "Youth." It is expressed by the figures of eight dancing children facing outward and encircling in a ring a central basin 13 feet in diameter. On a pedestal in the middle of the inner basin is the heroic figure of a young naiad, directing the dance with cymbals. This figure dominates the group.

WAR DOG IN GAS MASK



The dogs employed by the French in aiding the wounded and carrying messages through the trenches are wonderfully trained and show extraordinary intelligence. For work near the firing line some of these dogs have been provided with gas masks.

The One Difference.

Bishop Sanford Olmsted of Denver is noted for his somewhat caustic wit. A lady said to Bishop Olmsted at a luncheon:

"As for these sacred concerts, so-called, I could never see, bishop, wherein a sacred concert differed from an ordinary concert."

"Oh my dear madam," said Bishop Olmsted in a shocked voice, "there is a distinct difference. A sacred concert is always given on Sunday."

STATISTICS LAW STANDS

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE STATE'S VITAL STATISTICS LAW IN LATE RULING.

Decision Is Pleasing to State Board of Health—Dr. Lillard Asserts State Board Is Eligible For Admission to Federal Registration Area.

Nashville.—Dr. R. Q. Lillard, secretary of the state board of health, is highly gratified over the decision of the supreme court upholding the state's vital statistics law.

"This is one of the progressive measures of the state board of health," said Dr. Lillard, "and is in keeping with the progressive work that has been undertaken by the department. The law has the endorsement of the labor organizations as well as the American and state bar associations. As a public health measure it will be of incalculable value to the people of Tennessee."

"The records of our office were checked up recently by the census bureau and it was estimated that we were getting about 94 per cent of the births and deaths. The state will probably be admitted to the Federal registration area within the next 90 days."

Teachers Will Take Examination.

The next state examination for teachers will be held March 30-31. The weather was so inclement when the December examination was held that but comparatively few took it. In order to give the graders an opportunity to care for the papers of the next examination, which will be heavy, it has been decided to hold the examination sooner than was first planned.

It is desired to have certificates from this examination in the hands of teachers in time for them to teach summer terms of school. As this is the last examination until the middle of July, it will be necessary for all teachers who expect to begin teaching before September 1 to take it. No teacher can legally receive pay for teaching who has no contract with the board. No board can sign a contract with a teacher who has no certificate. The law fixes a fine for the violation of these regulations.

State Treasurer's Report.

The report of the state treasurer on Jan. 31 shows the principal items and receipts to be as follows, with only \$69,519.60 balance in the treasury:

Receipts—County trustees, \$50,549.20; county court clerks, \$54,246.28; circuit court clerks, \$15,545.25; railroads, \$139,450.06; maintenance of convicts (main prison), \$10,499.48; Brushy mountain, \$16,797.89; game and fish, \$2,894.46; highway department, \$13,697.75.

Disbursements—Interest state debt, \$238,027.50; maintenance of convicts (main prison), \$19,527.27; Brushy mountain, \$12,788.91; highway department, \$13,074.08.

Balance in treasury Jan. 1, \$89,683.47; receipts for January, \$338,375.81; disbursements for January, \$358,539.68; balance in treasury Feb. 1, \$69,519.60.

Orders Better Depot Facilities.

The Tennessee railroad commission has issued an order directing the Louisville & Nashville railroad to provide adequate passenger and freight depot facilities at Pendergast, Polk county, and requiring the railroad to file with the commission plans and specifications for such depot on or before March 15, 1917.

Jennings Will Be Valid.

The supreme court has affirmed the judgment of the court of civil appeals and of the trial court in the Jennings will case. By this will Jennings, a white man, devised an estate consisting of about 1,000 acres of valuable farm land to Bettie Hicks, a negro woman that he had lived with.

Board of Control Is Active.

The legislative committee investigating the board of control and penal and charitable institutions has organized. Senator N. N. Nichols of Houston county was elected chairman and appointed committees on rules and methods of procedure.

Plastering Falls.

Plastering from the ceiling of the senate chamber of the state capitol fell, littering the speaker's stand with plaster. In the speaker's chair was a large piece, while particles were found on desks of the clerks and members nearby.

Justice Neil Recovering.

Judge D. L. Lansden has received a letter from Chief Justice M. M. Neil, who is in Florida for the benefit of his health, saying that he is improving, though in that land of flowers he finds it hard to shake off the grip.

Three Definitions.

Curtis had several times been to see Jack, a nine-months-old baby, and was so exuberant in his love for and enthusiasm over him we were anxious and curious to hear what he would say about Billy, then ten days old. Unfortunately, his visit came when Billy was asleep, and Curtis solemnly eyed the motionless little mite "way down in the crib. When his father asked that evening what he thought of Billy, Curtis said, "Well, I'm a little boy, and Jack's a little baby, and Billy's just a name."

SYRUP OF FIGS FOR A CHILD'S BOWELS

It is cruel to force nauseating, harsh physic into a sick child.

Look back at your childhood days. Remember the "dose" mother insisted on—castor oil, calomel, cathartics. How you hated them, how you fought against taking them.

With our children it's different. Mothers who cling to the old form of physic simply don't realize what they do. The children's revolt is well-founded. Their tender little "insides" are injured by them.

If your child's stomach, liver and bowels need cleansing, give only delicious "California Syrup of Figs." Its action is positive, but gentle. Millions of mothers keep this harmless "fruit laxative" handy; they know children love to take it; that it never fails to clean the liver and bowels and sweeten the stomach, and that a teaspoonful given today saves a sick child tomorrow.

Ask at the store for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on each bottle. Adv.

The Test.

What assurance have I that you do not wish to marry me merely for my money?" demanded the heiress.

The impecunious suitor drew himself up proudly.

"Money is nothing to me," he sneered. "I shall be happy in the prospect of never earning a cent in my life, so long as I have you."

And, having put him to the test, she was supremely content.

KIDNEY MEDICINE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY DRUGGISTS

About a quarter of a century ago Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root was introduced by me in this locality and the people who have used it during that time have been very favorably impressed with results. From personal experience I am pleased to state that I believe it to be a very good medicine, and it is my opinion that it possesses splendid curative value in the ailments for which it is so highly recommended by the large number of people who have taken it.

Very truly yours,
E. R. LASH, Druggist,
Sept. 19, 1916. Athens, Ohio.

Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You. Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will convince anyone. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention this paper. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.—Adv.

When Love Was Exhausted. They had just become engaged. He had kissed her long and incessantly and when finally he stopped, the tears came into her eyes, and she said: "Oh, dearest, you have ceased to love me."

"No, I haven't," he replied. "I just stopped to get my breath."

Granulated Eyelids, Sties, Inflamed Eyes relieved over night by Roman Eye Balsam. One trial proves its merit. Adv.

Finding Fault.

Caller—How pleased you must be to find that your new cook is a stayer. Hostess—My dear, don't mention it! She's a stayer all right, but unfortunately, she's not a cook.—Boston Transcript.

YES! LIFT A CORN OFF WITHOUT PAIN!

Cincinnati man tells how to dry up a corn or callus so it lifts off with fingers.

You corn-pestered men and women need suffer no longer. Wear the shoes that nearly killed you before, says this Cincinnati authority, because a few drops of freezone applied directly on a tender, aching corn or callus, stops soreness at once and soon the corn or hardened callus loosens so it can be lifted off, root and all, without pain.

A small bottle of freezone costs very little at any drug store, but will positively take off every hard or soft corn or callus. This should be tried, as it is inexpensive and is said not to irritate the surrounding skin.

If your druggist hasn't any freezone tell him to get a small bottle for you from his wholesale drug house.—adv.

Caught in the Net.

"Do people ever take advantage of the invitation to use this church for meditation and prayer?" a city verger was once asked.

"Yes," he replied, "I caught two of 'em at it the other day!"—Tit-Bits.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets are best for liver, bowels and stomach. One little Pellet for a laxative—three for a cathartic.—Adv.

Where the Difference Lies. "Mother," said George, "if God made men and women, why did he not make them alike?"

"Well, they are not so very different," said mother.

"But look at the difference in their clothes," said the observing young man.

But it's all right for a deaf man to tell his wife everything he hears.